Bids for Natural Gas in Gujarat

*176. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panna Mukta Tapti (PMT) JV partners invited the bids for sale of natural gas up to 4 Million Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) from 1st April, 2006 from various companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd., (GSPL) offered the highest price for gas amongst the bidders;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has made any representation to the Centre to follow the rules of tender and offer gas to GSPCL since their bid was the highest; and

(d) what is the reaction of the Centre to the representation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) JV invited bids from the propospective buyers for sale of natural gas up to 4 MMSCMD for a period of two years from 1.4.2006.

In response to JV's bid GSPC, one of the bidders offered the highest price of US $ 4.75/ MMBTU for 4 MMSCMD gas.

As per Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed by the Government with PMT JV, the Government nominee for lifting of natural gas is GAIL. However, in view of lack of consensus on gas price between GAIL and PMT JV, the Government had allowed JV partners to market the gas directly initially for a period of one year with effect from 1.4.2005 and subsequently for another two years. However, to take care of the existing priority consumers in power and fertilizer sectors, GAIL continued to get major portion of the gas, while remaining gas was supplied in accordance with the bids received from the companies.

The Government of Gujarat had represented to the Government of India. As per the PSC terms and provisions, Government nominee GAIL has the first right on natural gas produced from these PSCs. Accordingly, if GAIL is able to lift entire gas produced by PMT JV on terms, mutually agreeable to both the parties, GAIL may market the entire gas. The bids were invited from companies in 2006 in view of the lack of consensus on gas price between GAIL and PMT JV.

Performance of Public and Private Sector Oil Companies

*177. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the gross refining margins of public sector and private sector oil refineries; company-wise during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 3rd quarter of 2007-08;

(b) the net profit earned by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies and Reliance Petroleum during 3rd quarter of 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(c) the total quantity of petroleum products exported by public and private sector oil companies; and